REMARKS

The claims now pending in the application are Claims 13 to 20, the independent claims being Claims 13, 16 and 19. Claims 1 to 12 previously were cancelled. Claim 19 has been amended herein.

In the Official Action dated December 2, 2003, Claims 13 to 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,126,851 (Yoshimura) and Japanese Patent Document No. 6-319076 (Tsukasa), either alone or further in view of Official Notice. Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as anticipated by the Tsukasa JP '076 reference. Claims 19 and 20 further were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,121,448 (Katayama). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections respectfully are requested in view of the above arguments and the following remarks.

The rejections of the claims over the cited art respectfully are traversed. Initially, without conceding the propriety of the rejections over the Tsukasa '076 reference, or the Examiner's characterization of the Tsukasa '076 reference, Applicant submits that the Tsukasa JP '076 reference is not prior art against the subject application. The Tsukasa JP '076 reference has a publication date of November 15, 1994; the present invention claims a priority filing date of August 28, 1991. A certified copy of Japanese priority document number 3-217020 filed August 28, 1991, previously was submitted on November 29, 1993, in parent Application Number. 07/935,908 filed August 27, 1992. Applicant submits herewith a sworn English translation of the Japanese priority document, Japanese Patent Document No. 3-217020, filed August 28, 1991. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of the claims over the Tsukasa JP '076 reference be withdrawn.

For the above reasons, Applicant submits Claims 13 to 18 are allowable over the cited art, and are in condition for allowance.

Without conceding the propriety of the remaining outstanding rejection of Claims 19 and 20 over the Katayama '448 patent, independent Claim 19 has been amended herein even more clearly to recite various novel features of the present invention, with particular attention to the Examiner's comments. Support for the proposed amendments may be found in the original application. No new matter has been added.

The present invention relates to a novel reproduction apparatus and method. In one aspect, as now recited in independent Claim 19, the present invention relates to an image pickup apparatus comprising a memory which stores a number N of reduced images, selection means for selecting one of the N reduced images in accordance with an instruction from a user, and display means for operably displaying the number N of the reduced images, enlarging the one reduced image selected by the selection means, and displaying the enlarged image.

Applicant submits that the prior art fails to anticipate the present invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that there are differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

The Katayama '448 patent relates to a method and apparatus for high-speed editing of progressively-encoded images, and discloses a method in which editing processing which is executed on image data of an image of low resolution is stored and image data of high-resolution is subjected to editing processing in accordance with a procedure of the stored editing processing. The Katayama '448 patent teaches at column 4,

lines 36 to 39, that a reduced image may be displayed as it is ***or*** that an enlarged image may be displayed. However, Applicant submits that the Katayama '448 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed features of the present invention. Specifically, the Katayama '448 patent fails to disclose or suggest the feature of displaying a plurality of reduced images and an enlarged image of a selected one image, as disclosed and claimed in the present application.

Applicant again notes the Examiner's comments taking "official notice" that "it is notoriously well known in the video recording/reproducing art to [compress] image data before recording the same on the recording medium." However, without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's characterization, Applicant submits that such "official notice" fails to add anything to the prior art of record that would make obvious the claimed invention.

For the above reasons, Applicant submits that independent 19 is allowable over the cited art.

Claim 20 depend from Claim 19, and is believed allowable for the same reasons.

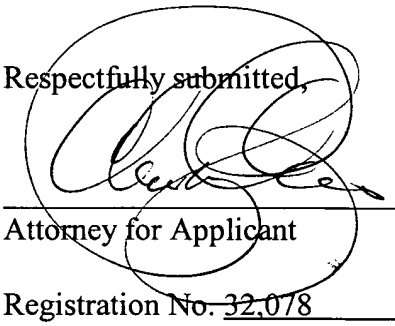
Moreover, each of the dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective independent claim, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the application is in

allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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